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CORRESPONDENCE

Hamilton, Mont., Nov. 23, '04.
Montana News:

Dear Comrades:—Please find inclosed postoffice order for \$7.50 the amount of your bill for posters. Success to the Montana News and the cause of the common people.

Yours fraternally,
E. G. WHEELER.

Rimini, Mont., Nov. 26, '04.
Dear Comrade Walsh:—At present I am located in an un-Godly hole in the woods. Good enough for a wage slave, you know. And to pass away the time, started to jot down a few of my thoughts. I have blossomed into what you might call a kind of an underground poet. I consider my article a first-class up-to-date machine with a handle on it and if you think it too good for your paper, please send it to the Butte Miner or some other corporation graft. I got two subscribers for your paper and think I can get some more. Will send the money in a few days.

JOHN BRACK.

Missoula, Mont., Nov. 24, '04.
Comrade Walsh:

It is sometimes amusing but more often disgusting to read the wise and vicious utterings of the defenders of republicanism upon the issues, having direct bearing upon labor; they are greatly concerned about us; they are forever explaining, but as Bryan aptly says, their explanations need explaining. President Roosevelt in his acceptance speech emphatically declares that whatever may be done for or against the workers, their standard of living must never be lowered. Amen to that. He also declares that the protective tariff must be kept in force, so that they

may not be forced to compete with foreign workers, who work so very cheap and produce so much that our markets can be filled with their products to the detriment of our own producers. He speaks again in the same fatherly way and declares that a modified reciprocal provision with foreign nations should be brought about so that our manufacturers may secure their raw material at the least possible cost; so that they may successfully compete with the foreign foe in manufacturing enterprises. Well, let us investigate this proposition.

It is apparent that if we were only producers the above arrangements would be immensely to our advantage, but when we consider ourselves in the double capacity of producers and consumers it does not appear so good for it is a fact that while we produce more than we can possibly consume, as consumers we are compelled to pay for our own products, much more than our foreign competitors. Therefore we are giving the advantages of our protective policy to the very people against whom it is supposed to operate.

We find by studying the official reports of the labor bureau that we are paying more per ton for steel, iron, coal, and all products manufactured from them than England or Russia; countries from which we import millions of tons of raw material every year.

Pages 178 to 179 report of commissioners on steel rails for the year 1890, shows an average price in America per ton of 2240 lbs., \$31.75. Average price for same in England \$25.85; difference in favor of England \$5.90 per ton. We also find, page 96, the average cost of production to be per ton of 2240 lbs. \$19.17. These figures are prepared by the iron and steel association, while the commission finds the real cost to be \$11.96; a difference of \$7.27 per ton in favor of the trust on iron and steel ore. On the same page we find that the cost of producing one ton of 2240 lbs of the same material is \$8.81; by these figures we find that while England can produce raw material \$3.15 per ton cheaper than it can be produced at our own furnaces, and that the wages paid in England are 80 cents per ton, while our wages are from \$1.82 to \$2.37; a difference of \$1.57 per ton. Yet we find by referring to page 95, same report, that the selling price in England for steel rails is \$9.50 per ton less than in America.

Now we may be able to find some of the reasons for this by referring to the freight rates per ton paid by American concerns. Page 296 we have a statement from a manufac-

turer in Pennsylvania on the cost of transporting one ton of ore from New York to San Francisco. Lighterage 50 cents; insurance 45 cents; three months interest 45 cents; freight by water \$10. Total \$11.40. Page 279 we find the rate from Scotland to be, per ton \$4.87; from Beni Soref, Egypt \$2.25; from Bona Algeria to Philadelphia \$2.69; Cartagena, Spain to Philadelphia, \$2.37; Macri, Turkey to Baltimore, \$4.38; from Liverpool, England, steel slabs \$1.95; from Liverpool, steel rails, \$1.57. On page 270 we find the statement from a prominent American manufacturer that the shipping trust used steel rails for ballast the quarter part of the season and delivered them free of charge. On the same page we find a comparative statement of the price of steel rails per ton in England and America as follows: Without tariff in England \$25; without tariff in America \$25; with tariff, English rails \$39; with tariff American rails \$47.92. The last figures are for San Francisco, giving the English rails an advantage of \$8.92 per ton in that market. Now by studying these figures we may find why (1) we undersell foreign makers, (2) why we are benefitted by the protective tariff, (3) why it is necessary to protect the infant industries by reciprocal arrangements in shipping material.

T. P. CRUMLEY.

Billings, Mont., Nov. 26, '04.
Editor Montana News,

Dear Comrade:—In reading your article headed "Socialists are making another mistake," in a recent issue of the News, I think I can see a slight inconsistency contained therein which you have evidently overlooked. The thoroughly class conscious Socialist is, and always will be, the mainstay of the Socialist party, but the thinking apparatus of the class conscious Socialist has not only got to be of good quality but has got to be used. It must be admitted that if our Socialist papers are to live they must be supported, but we must look for some of that support to come from the half-baked element and even the raw element as well as the nicely browned Socialist. In fact, the real good to be done by our Socialist papers, as well as by our speakers, is to be gauged by their power to get at the raw material or the uninitiated. When Comrade Wilshire recommended Socialists to procure copies of Collier's Weekly, he did not do so with any intention of boosting the subscription list of Collier's, but because he realized that by encouraging articles of that character in a paper of Collier's immense circulation it would

be the means of preparing a dish for a number of misguided individuals whose prejudices will not permit them to read anything contained in a Socialist paper. I do not believe that Wilshire would advocate any comrade subscribing to Collier's in preference to our own papers.

The greatest battle that the Socialists have to fight in the future, as it has been in the past, is to beat down popular prejudice and ingrained precedent. If articles in capitalist papers will open the eyes of any, and if the readers have the mental power to do any thinking for themselves, they will switch from patronizing capitalist papers to our own papers as readily as they will switch from the old parties into the ranks of the Socialist party. Thinkers are the only ones we can expect to make Socialists of and it is the duty of the Socialists to make thinkers if possible. You, yourself, frequently quote articles from capitalist papers and show up their inconsistencies, showing, at the same time, that you are reading these capitalist sheets, and, in fact, you could not run a Socialist paper unless you did keep posted on the movements of the enemy by patronizing them to a certain extent. You speak of the women's republican league of Cook county challenging the Socialist agitators of Chicago, and advise Socialists to prepare articles for their local papers, and quote a letter from headquarters on the subject of furnishing plate matter to the local papers, and these are all good things and all go to show that we must make Socialists by various means, but make 'em and when we get them made the subscription lists of our own papers will not be apt to suffer.

I believe that it is "breaking the old man's leg before he falls" to think that the capitalists are going to dope the class conscious Socialists by showing up capitalistic inconsistencies in their own papers, and I think it a good idea for Socialists to encourage them to so expose themselves.

ADAM F. SKIRVING.

P. S.—Kindly send the Montana News to Geo. W. Smith, 3025 Pinkney street, Omaha, Nebraska, for which I enclose \$1.00. A. F. S.

Servant Girl Problem

(Continued from page one)

It is doubtless unpleasant also to have the bald fact constantly staring one in the face that one's toil is usually required for no higher purpose than to enable another human being to live in idleness and luxury. The fact in the case of the factory hand is somewhat veiled. The pri-

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Leave 7:30 a. m.	Lombard	Arrive 3:45 p. m.	
Leave 11:02 a. m.	Dorsey	Arrive 12:55 p. m.	
Arrive 11:30 p. m.	Summit	Leave 12:30 p. m.	
Leave 12:01 p. m.	Summit	Arrive 12:00 m.	
Leave 12:40 p. m.	Lenep	Arrive 11:20 a. m.	
Leave 1:06 p. m.	Martinsdale	Arrive 10:53 a. m.	
Leave 1:41 p. m.	Twodot	Arrive 10:23 a. m.	
Leave 2:20 p. m.	Harlowtown	Arrive 9:55 a. m.	
Leave 3:50 p. m.	Ubet	Arrive 8:35 a. m.	
Leave 4:58 p. m.	Moore	Arrive 7:50 a. m.	
Arrive 6:00 p. m.	Lewistown	Leave 7:00 a. m.	

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